

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
JUNE 7, 1988

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on June 7, 1988 at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Richard D. Messinger, Chairman  
J. Newton Cohen, Sr., Vice-Chairman  
Wilborn Swaim, Member  
George C. Knox, Member  
Jamima P. DeMarcus, Member

The County Manager, Finance Director, County Attorney and Clerk to the Board were also present as well as various Rowan County citizens and administrative staff.

Chairman Messinger called the meeting to order. Chairman Messinger suggested starting off with how much the continuation budget amounts to and how much revenue the County will receive.

The County Manager, Tim Russell, presented to the Commission this information. He provided the Commission with a document Rowan County 1988-89 Priorities and Major Goals. He stated that at the conclusion of the Planning Session in March, he tried to put in writing what the Commission's priorities were to be sent to all Department Heads. He stated that he listed what he considered the ranking system and then listed all the priorities that were proposed to the Commission. He gave it a "1-2-3-4" to indicate to the Department Heads how this rank is based in the Commission's discussion.

When the budget came in, he made another document that was provided to the Commission called "Rowan County List of Expansion Items for 1988-89". He stated that this is taking the budget copies that the Commission was provided (Blue Book) with exception of Salary Reclassification and listed on this document all the items that listed resulted in an Expansion Request.

To indicate the Manager's Analysis of the Budget (Indication ONLY) he took the Blue Book that is balanced under the Continuation. In essence, when the County did the Continuation Budget, they received enough revenues with the expenses in the back at \$32,401,015. He stated he went through the revenues looking at the most current revenue collections through the end of May or the First of June. When the Budget document was done, it was done in March. He went back and did an analysis. He stated that on page 3 of the Blue Book what he is considering for the expansion is the proposed continuation revenue. In the Continuation Budget there is \$32,401,014 this ties back to the Blue Book as far as revenues. He went back to the Book on Revenues and Expenses and looked at

additional revenues and came up with additional revenues of \$243,623. Therefore, he has enough revenues to balance at \$32,644,637. This is for no tax increase at all this is 48 cents (how much money they have had). He stated that he did the same thing on expenditures. Even though they gave the guidelines to the Department Heads for expenses (Certain cost of living raised, etc.) again went through the expenses under continuation and made some voluntary adjustments. These adjustments would equal \$324,454 that he recommend be reduced from the Continuation Budget. This gives the County more money to "play with". In essence the County is gaining \$243,000 in revenues which they are losing \$324,454 in the expenses which increases. So funds available for expansion (leave continuation budget back and come over to expansion budget) there is \$568,077 to start the process with no tax increase. He stated that if you go back to the first sheet, first sheet stated the fund available for expansion is \$568,077 plus .07 to generate. This is just a scenario 7 cents being 5 cents for Schools, 1 for Ambulance and 1 for Debt Service. 7 cents would generate \$1,850,394; therefore, you would have proposed available funds after Continuation Budget is funded \$2,418,471. If they look at Priority #1--Proposals (He only listed the first three (3) because they are the ones that have been discussed). School--If the Schools are given 5 cents this would generate \$1,321,710. If they give the Library Funded Debt Service next year which is \$364,800. He stated that this amount is fixed because they have already been told by the Local Government that that is what Bonds and Principles would be. Ambulance Service--What he proposed \$210,552 this is Staff, Equipment, Building, etc. Then the Commission would have left over to look at other items in the Budget \$521,409. What the Ambulance is asking for is much for than \$210,552. He feels that they can do this a different way: 1) Finance the Ambulance like they do the County vehicles and 2) It depends on the type of station. The next thing is that they are only funding for about nine (9) months next year for staff because there is no reason to hire July 1 because they do not know the location of a station yet. He is looking at maybe an October 1 implementation date. So he prorated this. He stated that they can fund the ambulance site next year for \$210,000 based upon where the station is and the type of building. He stated what he would consider what his recommendation would be for the priority items. This is just given to the Commission as an idea or guideline. The idea is that they have to a lot of priority on expansion items and he has made a list of them here. He stated that referring to the second page he is \$133,073 short (which is about 1/2 cents). He stated that he listed them last night. Commissioner Swaim asked if this takes into consideration any surplus that they will have this year. Tim Russell stated that they always budget next year what their surplus would be this year and he has increased this. He stated that this year they have budget \$750,000 and in the Expansion Budget they are showing \$864,000 next year. He stated that he is anticipating this surplus for the budget next year. In clarity he stated that look at revenues (Fund Balance Appropriated Restricted)--he stated that this year they budget \$775,000 of money they did not spend in 86-87 they carried it over. This year he proposed

\$846,000. He stated that this is an estimate based on all the accruals. He stated that the problem in estimating this is Social Services and Health Department work on the after-the-fact reimbursements so they have no idea what they will get from DSS until October or maybe even September. He stated that the unappropriated funded balance is approximately 3 1/2 Million dollars and still have this 2 1/2 Million in what he called float due to DSS and programs that they have to fund so there is a cap on float. He stated that you could fund out of fund balance if they wanted to but the thing about fund balance is that you can hold for rainy day things in case you have a big project. He stated that page 4 is the support to show how these figures were derived. Page 4 he adjusted the estimated advalorem tax base based on Wallace's Estimates. He stated that he is using a 3% growth which is still very conservative and he has come up with \$131,000 here. Page 5 is just a summary--he stated that these are all the revenues that he increased to show where it came from. He stated that he increased revenues \$243,623 and this ties back to the first sheet. These are the accounts that he increased--beginning balance, what he increased, and what the revised figures will be. Page 6 and 7 is the County Manager's recommendation for where they can reduce the continuation budget for people who have asked for certain things that he feels can be trimmed just a little to come up with additional funds. He stated that if you see what a penny generates and now you take away \$312,000,000 off the top of it and now what a penny generates is a lot less and based on a 3% growth their base issue would be estimated at \$2,718,170,000. He stated that he is showing there 97.25% what a penny would generate.

SCHOOLS: Both the County Schools and the City Schools appeared at the meeting to discuss with the Commission once again their Budget for Fiscal year 1988-89. Brady Frick provided the Commission with copies of the proposed Budget for the Schools. Tim Russell reviewed the items that effect the Schools one being the Income. He stated that a couple issues facing the Commission is if the Commission is committing itself to an effort to fund the Public Schools at a state-wide average then they all know that a state-wide average based upon the information given to them by the State in the fiscal information this year based on 85-86 is going to be \$627.94 per person roughly \$628 per student. In order to provide sufficient funds to the Schools, local funds would have to be increased roughly about \$2 1/2 Million which is roughly about 10 cents. He stated that they talked 9.63 cents but the purpose of his discussion he will say 10 cents because it rounds off.

The County Manager stated that the first issue that they have been discussing is what represents local funds. The second issue where do these local funds go. Does local funds include, Fines and Forfeitures, Interest Income, ABC Proceeds, Horizons Unlimited Current Expense, the Current Expense that goes to Travel Class, etc. He stated that if you are only talking about County Appropriations for Current Expense Line Items and those items being separate, then this will effect the amount of money you have and how you reduce the

formula. He stated that the policy set and maybe set in present and future years because then you can always include fines and forfeitures are truly local funds, then you are committed to give \$628 per student, then it is pretty easy to determine what \$628 will realize either in County Appropriation, Fines & Forfeitures, Interest Income, etc. He stated that if the County fails to exclude these items or intentionally exclude the items then the 10 cents will go up. For example if exclude fines and forfeitures from local funds, they are talking about a 2 cent increase so instead of 10 cents you are talking about 12 cents to bring up to a State Average. If exclude Interest Income or the Item going through Tennis and Travel Class then you are talking about another penny. Again it would result about how many pennies you are talking about on a tax rate based upon what the County includes in Local funds and Local programs. Commissioner Cohen asked the County Manager if they have the money to give this out front. He stated that they will have to give this to them in monthly payments or how will this be handled. The County Manager stated that his recommendation would be to go back to the 112 funding formula. He stated two (2) years ago, the Commission adopted a policy to revise this that would restrict the ability to earn interest. It did not effect the City or the Kannapolis System because they are a small fund balance. But based on what the Commission did over the concern that the fund balance was growing out of proportion to the other funds, the Commission limited the amount that they gave the County System the amount that they would give them would not exceed 10% (they cannot hold anymore cash in their fund balance that 10% of their budget). If it was below that, then the County would provide them funds. As a result of this, they were ususally holding the funding until the latter part of the year and have been for the last two (2) years before they disburse it all out. If the Commission would go back to the 112 funding formula, then really all the County Commission is doing is giving the Schools 1/12 of the County Appropriation each month. He stated that the only issue he would have of this would be if include Interest Income that they earn as local money, then yes could be funded at 1/12. Chairman Messinger then referred to the sheet provided by Brady Frick as they go across you will see 87-88 which is the current year and all the items made up in current expense for the three (3) units and then what an additional nickel would produce and also broken down between the three (3) systems plus a little miscellaneous income. (Attendance Officer and Training Class). The County Manager stated that these are the items that the County School has requested an increase in their attendance officer by \$3,386. If this is included as local money and then if appropriated to the County System in a Special Appropriation of \$3,386 which is what their increase is for Current Expense under Attendance Officer then this effect how much is given under the Current Expense County at the top. This is simply taking away from this share. The Travel Class, the City Request of \$4,480 increase and Attendance and Trainable Class Kannapolis get their share of \$1,381. The Horizons Unlimited Request is an increase \$15,021. Tim Russell stated that the County System request the \$1,232,152 which is really the result of the assumption that 5 cents would generate

roughly \$1,500,000. Therefore, the County System would get about 80% of this which is \$1,232,000. However, the County knows now because of the exemption for the manufacturer and the retail inventory that a penny now only generates about \$264,000. The County Manager stated that when the estimates were done back in the Spring the County's Advolorem Tax Base was estimated to be about \$3,000,000 which is however, the General Assembly last year exempted all inventories and took this away from their base and this amounted to \$312,000,000. Now their base is no longer \$3 billion it is \$2,690 Million. So a penny now when they let it be a penny, a penny only generates \$269,000 times the collectible rates vs. \$300,000. Tim Russell stated that half-way was determined at one time to be something like 9.38 cents and they are saying 5 cents even though they are recognizing using the County's old data that that is the condition that was bothered by the City.

Commissioner Cohen stated that it appeared to him that in 87-88 the City was receiving about \$545,000 from the City. He stated that in five (5) or six (6) years more than likely the City will be in a position to see supplements of 5 cents so half of this \$272,000 and the City will receive \$183,000. ????? He stated that there about \$45,000 shortcoming over funds being received from the City.

- I. Could put Cap. Bldg. Fund Money in Raleigh to put into budget that would free up County. Appropriate County funds for Cap. Outlay. TR.
- II. TR said appropriate full amount--does not want to hurt City in transition.  
Get 80 cents on \$1 and the City can do whatever on 20 cents on \$1. This will be for one year. Appropriate \$400,000--County gets there 80% and City gets 20% of this and if want to come back to bd. of comm. and reallocate to current exp.
- III. JD said for good feelings not to hurt Salisbury and don't think fair to ask City Council to tax both people more in addition to 5% that the County will do.

#### AMBULANCE:

- I. WA- Stated that water is safe and National Guard gave temporary water. Same people in Winston-Salem came in and ran more tests on wells. According to Jim Seagle tested OK (safe to drink). Although some are upset with landlord--County's standpoint water is safe. National Guard will pick up water trailers today. Health people in Winston-Salem will distribute letters about 12:00 today to tell water is tested and safe.
- II. Concern is proposed ambulance site. Expansion Budget is \$358,000. Chairman Messinger asked what thoughts on where put new station. TB-TR-WA have discussed TB two areas in County in present need of station (SE-NW areas--NW including Cleveland, Woodleaf, Scotch Irish, --Southeastern including Rockwell, Gold Hill and those

areas). Checked call volume, response time. Volume by day 1.66 calls in SE area and 1.46 in NW area. Response times since moved to EOC have significantly improved average response time to SE area 11min. and 17 min. to NW area. Based on this data and closeness of call volume station would be better suited in NW area. Without having selected definite site opinion site located no further out the general vicinity of Celanese. Unit in this area would make quicker response to NW most point of County but available to respond back into Salisbury, Atwell, Mt. Ulla, Bear Poplar and improve response there. If stay on 5-yr. plan with addition of another unit within next couple years bring County up to a good response time for entire County. Rescue Squad placed unit in Rockwell there is no more room in building. WA-new fire station in Woodleaf has some extra space available as far as parking truck but no living quarters. The old station would not be adequate without a lot of work being done to it. Woodleaf Fire Dept. has signed contract with Rescue Squad offering them space in building for Rescue Crash Truck for Western Area of County. NC stated that Rockwell Mayor said had space. WA-Fire Chief says building is full. JD more interest in right location rather than just free space. JD feels analysis of response time is exactly right and what original Commission had thought. New Ag. Building would serve East Rowan. JD agrees look into Western part of County. TB-Studies indicate from existing station to further most points of County (NW or SE) 21.5 miles to NW and 21 miles to SE. Effectively taken GQ out of equation as handled as more of a Salisbury call now. 64% of call volume is in Salisbury or surrounding area. Advisory Committee has suggested two general areas but have not looked at a final site selection and basing this on response time. Gave to TB to make decision. Indicated in 5-year plan to put one in SE and one NW but did not designate area. Response times and call volume are based on calls received from July 1, 1987 to the end of March 31, 1988. 90% of call volume is within 8 minutes. NC considered Lockes old station. WA looked at it but not far enough out to offer much help toward Woodleaf and Scotch Irish area. Needs to be out more Hwy. 70 so can go in both directions. Would do well going out 150 but still have significant problems in traffic in trying to get to NW point of County. Also no sleeping quarters. DM asked what talking about in Personnel. This is reflected in their budget in Salaries and Fringe Benefits. TB-placed \$60,000 in budget concerning building of Station. Can use other alternatives in lieu of building a building such as lease, use modular housing or mobile homes and lease lots and cut costs. Building shelter or small garage. This is option would consider would put equipment and personnel in environment need to be in. Provide with adequate house. Some areas use rented apartments and some have leased homes. JD-new equipment. TB proposed two (2) new ambulances on State Contract and run about \$43,000 a piece. Once equip them they run about 50 to 52,000 a piece which would be about 104,000 for both. One goes as new unit for new location and other would go to replace unit that presently has over 100,000. This unit would effectively become reserve unit. These

two (2) new units would give eight (8) units total. Capital Outlay - Equipment (\$25,000) \$22,500 considered under development of next level of care this will not be implemented until next fiscal year. The other would be equipment that would help with establishment of new segment and items that needs to add to units.

### III. LIBRARY - Melody Moxley for Phil Barton

Feel need need more three(3) professional librarian positions in order to staff second floor (Info. Services). On of these libraries will be partially used to local history genealogy. Ask for increased hours in existing positions and new positions for circulation to take into account increased numbers of materials circulating as well as Children's Services.

Under Cap. Outlay \$4,265--Part of this is for equipment that was not able to cover under construction equipment. Part was also for microfilming and printer \$6,800. Originally budgeted this this year but have divert money for book repairs for book mobile not anticipated. Also photocopier is needed in new facility as well as data processing equipment and printer to be used with existing microcomputer. They will also be automated. Also taken in consideration to the cost of inflation. DM asked what automation in library amounts to. MM replied as far as hardware cost which could be financed over a period of five (5) years possibly \$230,000. Not all would be upfront money. 1/4 of this can be provided by a grant from the State and Federal Govt. so help defray costs tremendously. At same time to take line item called processing and reduce to a point that could pay for cost of maintaining systems over several years. What public will see is books are checked out with aid of computer. There will be a catalog which will enable public go to catalog and look up book and tell whether it is on shelf, checked out and when due back. WS--\$95,000 to consider (what include) TR stated what he would include would be salaries of three librarians pro-rated and three library assistant pro-rated and leave up to PB to look at other expansion items.

### IV. HEALTH DEPARTMENT - HERBERT HAWLEY:

Public Health Nurse I to work on AIDS Program. Divided funding of this between the County 50% and 50% State. Position listed as #1 Priority in 5-year study plan and need nurse in order to provide follow up in education, counseling on AIDS. Plan have nurse spend part of that time in WIC Program. Assigning a portion of cost of nurse to WIC Program because actually plan on nurse spending 50% time there.

Primary reason need sanitarian other than Health Educator (this was previously put in 5-year plan) appeared to HH and administrative staff since planning to use nurse in AIDS Education. Rather than asking for both positions this year decided to put in for new

sanitarian having more and more needs in connection with environmental health problems. Need someone to help handle septic tank installations. The technical know-how and steps have to provide to come up with approval of system. The rules require annual inspection of large complex engineering systems. Have in excess of 200 of these systems in the County. Right now not doing annual inspection because do not have time. Since been charging fees hope to collect about \$100,000 of all this which should help pay for sanitarian position. Also proposing to dig holes on tracks of land that will be developed. Had many complaints that need attention that cannot get around to. Mr. Seagle, Environmental Health Supervisor, hoping new sanitarian will help Mr. Seagle in workload.

Requesting Animal Control Officer in General Budget. Had some problems with workers due to illness and back problems. Do have three (3) dog wardens working at one time covering entire County with exception of Salisbury. This is overwhelming. Good bit of time has to be spent at shelter for routine operation and maintenance. Get about 45-50 calls of service everyday. Total number animals processed increased from 3,000 to 6,000 per year.

#### V. CODES ENFORCEMENT - DON CONNER

TR-two basic positions are requested:

Priority #1 for Planning and Zoning is establishment of Planning & Zoning Office next year hiring position for Planning & Zoning Officer to begin work in this area.

Recycling needs Recycling Coordinator.

DC said has not asked for Expansion other than two (2) new positions which are #1 Priority of Commission.

DM-The Recycling has nothing to do with landfill. It is furthering experience in County pick up at designated sites and adding to them and improving method of sorting, collecting, and disposing.

TR-Idea if expand a number of sites the issues facing: education, public relations to the people, getting information to citizens about where the sites are, hours, monitoring the sites, report instances where they have been abused, supervising sites, working with the vendors, establishing markets, looking at types of items that will recycle, looking at new items, trying to make sure everything is clean. Idea would be to expand number of sites we have possibly within two (2) years to have reduction number of disposal sites from 30 or 35 down to 12 and have all 12 manned sites. Those disposal-compactor sites have also as recycling centers. JD-City of Spencer wants to do their own and have already started. DM-Need to start addressing doing something for the City as well as the County soon. JD-Thought when do six month valuation in September was when they will address this type of question. JD feels little premature to hire full-time director. She stated that she has time that she would like to give to it such as exploring markets. GK-Feels recycling and

anti-litter can be tied together. DM-Although at this point he concurred, he stated that recycling is major undertaking. JD feels commission needs to still do research and analytical things. DC-PLANNER POSITION that he was considering is position to get County started in direction of planning, land use, possibility of zoning ordinances or subdivision ordinances. Feels citizens want protection for their property. State Law requires that when move into this direction that have Planning Board. Although County has a planning board have never used it. Feels needs to be rekindled.